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Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year

1959



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LUNESDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor E. R. HARRIS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor P. E. U. TOWNSHEND.

Public Health Committee:

Chairman:

MRS. M. DOWBIGGIN.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor E. R. HARRIS, J.P.

Committee:

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Clerk of the Council:


J. A. HALLSWORTH, ESQ., D.P.A.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.SC.(Agr.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor:

A. WARBURTON.



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council:*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lunesdale Rural District in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1959.

The estimated population at mid-year, 1959, was 7,660, an increase of 220 on the previous year. The figure at the 1951 census was 7,351. Of the total population it is estimated that approximately 1,100 or just over 15% are of pensionable age or older.

There were 121 live births equivalent to an adjusted birth rate of 16.1 per 1,000 population, the comparable rates for England and Wales and the Administrative County being 16.5 and 16.7 respectively.

Deaths from all causes totalled 114, an increase of 27 on 1958. The adjusted death rate was 14.3 per 1,000 population, which may be compared with the national rate of 11.6 and the county rate of 13.8. Heart diseases again appeared as the most common cause of death and in this group coronary disease continues to be the chief culprit.

There were four infant deaths of which three occurred within the first week of life.

Apart from a fairly large outbreak of measles in the first half of the year the incidence of infectious diseases continued at a low level.

As is mentioned in the report of your Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, five villages have been provided with new sewage disposal works within the past six or seven years and sewerage schemes

for two more are well advanced. These improvements have enabled many property owners to get rid of pail and privy closets, but if this progressive programme could be extended to some of the smaller villages many more landlords and owner-occupiers of older houses would be encouraged to take advantage of improvement grants for the purpose of installing modern conveniences in their homes. It should be noted that 1,158 persons living in 339 houses are dependent on private water supplies which are untreated, and, furthermore, approximately 1,800 people are still living in 634 houses which do not have a water carriage system for disposal of waste matter. Even if the most isolated houses or farms are disregarded it will be apparent that there is still a need for further development of water supplies and sewerage in rural areas.

Of the total of 121 new houses completed in 1959 no less than 98 were built by private enterprise. Improvement schemes qualifying for substantial grants were completed in respect of a further 16 premises and altogether since 1950 a total of over 100 older houses have been preserved and modernised in this way.

Two cows in a milk herd were found during 1959 to be infected with *Brucella* organisms which cause contagious abortion in cows and undulant fever in humans. Great progress has been made in recent years in eradicating bovine tuberculosis from the dairy herds in this country but it is not generally appreciated by the public that raw T.T. (Tuberculin Tested) milk will protect the consumer only against the risk of acquiring bovine tuberculosis. Heat treated (pasteurised) milk will give maximum protection against any of the milk-borne diseases.

In conclusion I wish to express to the members of the Public Health Committee the thanks of the Department for their continued interest and support in its work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76,267
POPULATION (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,351
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid/59)	...						7,660
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)	...	...					1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951 Census)...							2,091
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1959)	...	...					2,550
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE (1959)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.0
NUMBER OF HOUSES PER ACRE (1959)	...	...	...				0.03
NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE (1959)	...	...					0.1
RATEABLE VALUE (at 31st December, 1959)	...						£105,569
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (at 31st December, 1959)	...	...	...	...	...		£380

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Lime Stone Quarrying.

Brick manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1959

<i>Live Births</i>						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate...	...	...	...	...	...	64	53	117
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
						65	56	121
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population						...	...	15.8
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population						...	...	16.1
Proportion (per cent) of illegitimate live births to total live births						...	...	3.3
<i>Still Births</i>								
Number registered						2	1	3
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births								24.2
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS						67	57	124
<i>Infant Deaths</i>								
Total infant deaths (under 1 year)						2	2	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births								33.1
Total infant deaths (under 4 weeks)						2	1	3
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						...	...	24.8
Total infant deaths (under 1 week)						2	1	3
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						...	...	24.8
STILL BIRTHS & DEATHS UNDER 1 WK.						4	2	6
Peri-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births								48.4
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES								Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births								Nil
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES						61	53	114
Crude death rate per 1,000 population								14.9
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 popn.								14.3
<i>Deaths from Certain Specified Diseases</i>						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population	
Cancer (all forms)						16	2.09	
Respiratory Tuberculosis						1	0.13	

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1959.**

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	5	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	10	15
Coronary disease, angina	17	7	24
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart disease	8	12	20
Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ..	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	5	3	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war... ..	—	—	—
TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ...	61	53	114

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959 AND THE PERIOD 1954—1958.

YEAR	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1959	121	15.8*	114	14.9*	3	24.2	Nil.	Nil.	4	33.1	3	24.8
1958	121	16.3	87	11.7	1	8.2	Nil.	Nil.	4	33.1	4	33.1
1957	104	14.2	94	12.9	1	10	Nil.	Nil.	1	10	1	10
1956	105	14.5	101	13.9	2	19	Nil.	Nil.	2	19	1	10
1955	108	14.9	83	11.5	1	9	Nil.	Nil.	1	9	1	9
1954	125	17.5	77	10.8	2	16	Nil.	Nil.	1	8	1	8
AVERAGE 5 yrs 1954-1958	—	15.5	—	12.1	—	12.5	—	—	—	15.8	—	14.0

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.02) = 16.1 per 1,000
death-rate (comparability factor, 0.96) = 14.3 per 1,000

SECTION B.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.**

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service

Lancaster Ambulance Station. Telephone Lancaster 3311.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

No 12 Area Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.
Area Children's Officer : Miss F. M. Jay, B.A., 35A, China Street,
Lancaster. Telephone 3020.

Clinics.

1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

- (a) Hornby, Village Institute, alternate Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (b) Caton, Institute, alternate Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (c) Halton, Congregational Church Hall, alternate Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m. (alternating with Caton).
- (d) Carnforth, Market Street, Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.

2. DENTAL.

- (a) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Thursday, by arrangement.
- (b) Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : Daily, by arrangement.

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

- (a) Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis can be provided free of charge at Child Welfare Centres within the district. Appointments arranged as required.
- (b) The same service can also be provided free by the General Medical Practitioners in the area.

4. OPHTHALMIC.

Market Street, Carnforth : Alternate Wednesday mornings.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : By arrangement.

6. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENTS.

Market Street, Carnforth : Friday mornings, 9-30—11-30 a.m.

7. SPEECH THERAPY.

Ryelands House, Lancaster : Tuesdays and Wednesdays, by appointment.

Convalescence

Arrangements can be made through the Divisional Health Office, Regent Street, Lancaster, for the admission of children and adults to convalescent or recuperative homes. This service is not normally free of charge.

Health Visiting Service

Full time nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire County Council to carry out duties as health visitors and school nurses.

Home Help Service

Home Helps resident within the Lunesdale District are available to provide help in the home for persons who are incapacitated by illness, old age and infirmity, confinement, etc. Those who can afford to pay for this service are required to do so according to their means.

Home Nursing and Midwifery

Full time nurse/midwives, who combine the duties of district nursing and domiciliary midwifery, are available within the District as follows :—

Caton : “ Milford,” Brookhouse Road, Telephone Caton 192.

Hornby : 2, Robin Croft, Gressingham, Telephone Hornby 307.

Laboratory Service

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases were dealt with at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary at the beginning of the year, but arrangements were then made for these specimens to be examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary. Transport of samples to Preston is carried out by agreement with the Public Health Department, Lancaster City Corporation.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at County Hall, Preston.

Mental Health Service

Medical Officers and mental health workers on the Divisional Health staff are responsible for the ascertainment of mental defectives and for the supervision and training of those remaining in the community. An Occupation Centre for the training of mentally defective children

is available in Lancaster. The duly authorised officers are concerned also in securing the admission to hospital of those in urgent need of treatment for mental illness, and in their care after discharge from hospital.

Nursing Homes

Caton Green Nursing Home, Caton. Telephone 134.

Welfare Services

The following welfare services are provided by the Lancashire County Council and are administered by Divisional Health Committee No. 2.

(a) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

For elderly persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, accommodation is provided at Dolphinlee, Fair Elms and The Laurels at Lancaster; the Empress Hostel at Morecambe; Moor Platt and the Hermitage at Caton.

(b) TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

In case of urgent need, *e.g.*, by reason of fire, flood or eviction, arrangements are made for the temporary accommodation of those rendered homeless.

(c) HANDICAPPED PERSONS

For persons who are blind or deaf or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped certain welfare provisions are made available either directly or through the agency of voluntary societies.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1959.

Diseases	Total Cases	Age Period — Years											
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age Un-known
Scarlet Fever	24	—	1	3	3	—	14	3	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	4	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	125	1	9	12	20	12	53	16	2	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Total Cases..	162	2	11	16	24	13	68	19	5	1	—	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS—1959

Age Groups.	Notifications.				Deaths.	
	New Cases.		Inward Transfer.			
	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.
0—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	1	—	—	—	1	—
25—	1	—	1	—	—	—
35—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and Over	1	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	3	—	1	—

TOTAL INCIDENCE

Notifications of infectious disease in 1959 totalled 162 as against 41 in 1958. The increase was due to the incidence of measles during the months of May, June and July.

SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA

Twenty-four cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with 4 in the previous year. The last case of diphtheria notified in the district was in 1947.

Memories of this once virulent and often fatal disease are fading and it is becoming difficult to maintain an adequate level of immunity in the population because far too many young parents fail to ensure that their children receive protection by means of active immunisation.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor, through school clinics, or at child welfare centres. Under the present immunisation scheme facilities are provided for protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, whereby inoculations may be given against diphtheria or whooping cough separately, or together, or in further combination with protection against tetanus. The following table shows the number of Lunesdale children immunised during 1955-1959 against each of these three diseases.

IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT 1955 - 1959

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation									
	Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Tetanus		
Age Groups	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total
1959	116	7	123	115	7	122	104	6	120
1958	105	5	110	107	4	111	105	4	109
1957	92	6	98	88	1	89	72	1	73
1956	70	11	81	67	3	70	42	1	43
1955	125	21	146	57	—	57	5	—	5

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection									
Age Groups	Diphtheria All ages		Whooping Cough All ages		Tetanus All ages				
1959	155		18		10				
1958	125		26		8				
1957	155		20		1				
1956	113		3		2				
1955	125		2		—				

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

One hundred and twenty-five cases of measles and four cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with five and twenty-one respectively for 1958. The outbreak of measles during the second quarter of the year was amongst children of pre-school and early school ages.

GASTRO-INTESTINAL INFECTIONS

It is satisfactory to be able to report that no cases of food poisoning or dysentery were notified in 1959.

POLIOMYELITIS

One case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis was notified during the year; the child made a complete recovery.

TUBERCULOSIS

Four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in 1959. One death from this disease was recorded but the case had not been previously diagnosed or notified as tuberculosis. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continue to decline throughout the country as a whole, particularly within the last decade.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

Domestic water supplies in the district can be said to be reasonably satisfactory as approximately 80% of the houses are connected to Council's mains. Only premises in the high-lying and remote parts of the parishes of Tatham and Quernmore are excepted from the broad statement made above owing to their position and the majority of these houses, chiefly farms, have their own private piped supplies which are mainly springs or water-courses near the farms. During exceptionally dry seasons such as was experienced in the summer of the year under review, many of these springs ceased and many farmers had difficulty in obtaining sufficient water for domestic use and the watering of stock. These private supplies are tested from time to time by the Ministry of Agriculture's Officers especially where the production of milk takes place and a high standard is demanded in such cases.

The chief source of supply passing to householders in the area is from the Thirlmere Aqueduct of the Manchester Corporation and four connections are made to the Aqueduct to serve various parishes as follows :—

- (1) Regional Scheme serving Arkholme, Whittington, Gressingham, Aughton, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Ireby, Leck, Wennington and Tatham.
- (2) Borwick, a separate scheme, which serves properties in that part of the district before the mains pass into the Lancaster Rural District to serve a portion of that area.
- (3) Nether Kellet and Over Kellet
- (4) Halton.

A fifth connection to the aqueduct is made at Caton and until recently this was only brought into service in times of emergency.

The Council also has two schemes under their own direct management, and these are known locally as the Hornby Castle Supply and the Caton Scheme. Details of these have been given in previous reports and it is not intended to comment further.

The Lancaster Corporation, by an Act of Parliament, has power to supply water to the parishes of Quernmore and Halton and approximately 75 houses are so served, some receiving water before treatment takes place owing to their situation above the filter houses.

Improvement works carried out during the year, in addition to mains extensions in various parishes where building development is taking place, took the form of a link main from Whittington, crossing the River Lune at Burrow to ease the work on the booster station at Leck, and there is no doubt that some of the farms on the higher points of the mains, particularly in Tatham, have benefited from this new main.

The following table gives an estimate of the supplies to properties in each parish in the district with an approximate figure of the population served at the end of the year.

Water Supplies to Houses in the District:

Parish	From Public Mains		Private Supplies	
	No. of Houses	Population Served	No. of Houses.	Population Served
Arkholme-with-Cawood ...	64	172	23	80
Borwick	45	128	5	18
Burrow-with-Burrow ...	44	125	6	15
Cantsfield	21	74	1	5
Caton-with-Littledale ...	576	1,701	41	126
Claughton	35	96	4	14
Gressingham	46	123	2	8
Halton-with-Aughton ...	409	1,370	5	18
Hornby-with-Farleton ...	157	442	4	14
Ireby	16	51	4	15
Nether Kellet	92	295	3	8
Over Kellet	120	410	14	50
Leck	54	166	6	20
Melling-with-Wrayton ...	65	210	—	—
Quernmore	86	286	87	280
Roeburndale	—	—	21	80
Tatham	49	160	65	230
Tunstall	28	70	5	15
Wennington	41	136	1	4
Whittington	80	235	19	56
Wray-with-Botton	124	370	23	102
Total Whole District ...	2,152	6,620	339	1,158

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies

Samples of water from various sources are obtained from time to time for bacteriological examination. These specimens were delivered to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for some months but arrangements have now been made to have the samples dealt with at the Laboratory attached to the Infirmary at Preston and transport of such specimens is carried out by arrangement with the Health Department of the Lancaster City Corporation. Below are details of the specimens submitted for analysis :

<i>(a) Raw Water</i>				
No. of specimens submitted	...	...	...	4
No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	...	3
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	...	1
<i>(b) Treated Water</i>				
No. of specimens submitted	...	...	...	3
No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	...	2
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	...	1

On receipt of unsatisfactory reports on public supplies, systematic mains flushing is carried out and the chlorine dosage increased. Owners of private supplies are notified of all results and on unsatisfactory reports, advised as to possible sources of pollution and the action deemed necessary to remedy the trouble.

Chemical Examination

Two samples were submitted to the County Analyst at Preston who carries out chemical analyses for the Council. These were from public supplies and were reported upon as satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Details of sewerage and drainage facilities throughout the district are well known to members of the Council and it is not proposed to reiterate facts already set out in previous reports. Although the Council can take pride in the fact that five new sewage disposal works have been brought into operation during the past six or seven years, there is still work to be done, in this respect, in several more of our villages, and as is well known by members, attempts are being made to provide new schemes in the villages of Whittington and Wray.

In villages where no sewers are available and on farms and isolated properties, the construction of small private septic tanks continues. The question of the maintenance of these units is one on which owners continue to have difficulty but the Council cannot afford either the finance or the labour force to provide a service for this work and private builders and contractors have difficulty in persuading their workmen to clean out these tanks.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

An estimate is given below of the type of sanitary accommodation available at properties in the district at the end of the year :—

Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	55
Number of Privy Middens	...	...	...	350
Number of Closets attached	...	...	...	450
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System				1916
Number of Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	2355
Number of Moveable Ashbins	...	...	...	2950

Conversions during 1959

Number of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets...	19
Number of Fixed Receptacles to Moveable Ashbins	16

The alteration of the old type convenience depends principally on the provision of sewers in the villages, but in isolated houses the new Standard Improvement Grant will enable owners to convert their privies to water closets and it is hoped that progress will continue with these schemes.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council in all parts of the district. With the exception of outlying farms, most properties are visited at intervals of approximately 10 to 12 days. Three motor vehicles are used and six men are employed on this service whilst a seventh man is engaged to act as general foreman and rodent operator and he takes over on refuse collection during holiday and sickness periods. The workmen can take pride in the fact that very few serious complaints were received during the year although they have had to cope with an ever-increasing amount of material to be collected as building development is taking place throughout the area.

Refuse was removed from 79,928 ashbins and 1,282 privy middens and pails were cleansed in 1959; the three vehicles travelled 24,546 miles on this work.

Disposal of the refuse takes place on two sites, one known as Timpenny Quarry near Over Kellet, and the other in the Old Town's Quarry outside Whittington.

Waste paper, rags, metals, etc., is still being salvaged and the workmen are given a bonus based on the sale of these materials.

HOUSING

House building continues in most parts of the district, but in particular, most development is taking place in or near the villages of Halton and Caton. In all, 121 new houses were completed and occupied in 1959, 98 being built by private enterprise and 23 by contractors for the Council. The Council's building policy at the moment is for the re-housing of families from Clearance Areas or Individual Unfit Houses and for Old People, the bungalow type of house for the latter being greatly appreciated and in constant demand.

During the year it was established that there were 149 applications on the Council's waiting list, no less than 104 applicants were for houses in Caton or Halton whilst 42 applications were for Old People's Bungalows.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1959 is given as 2,550 and it is reasonable to state that at least one-third of the houses in the District have been built within the last 30 or 40 years and are of good standard provided with modern amenities. Most of these houses are of brick construction with slate or tile roofs, the external walls being roughcast or cement rendered to be in keeping with the rural area.

Older houses were built with local or near local stone, roofs being of blue slate or grey stone slates and most of these old houses show some trace of dampness owing to the lack of damp-proof courses in the random rubble walls. Taken as a whole, however, the general standard of housing conditions throughout the district is good. Many of the owner/occupied properties of the older types are in the hands of people who are house-proud and desire as far as finances will allow, to modernise their homes wherever possible. Without doubt, this fact has some bearing on the number of applications received for Improvement Grant from owner/occupiers.

The rents of many of these older types of houses vary and in many cases are very low. The present high cost of building labour and materials throws a great financial strain on owners of these houses but it has been found that very little difficulty is met with when owners are requested to carry out repairs.

Applications for financial assistance for Improvement Grants are still being encouraged by the Council and the introduction of the new Standard Grant during the year lead to numerous enquiries with the consequent demand on time. Procedure for “Discretionary Grants” is still described as in previous reports but all applications for Grant are dealt with by the Public Health Committee before a decision is made by the Council. In 1959, 32 applications, 7 being for Discretionary Grants, were considered. Only one application for Discretionary assistance was refused. Work connected with 15 applications was finally completed, 16 premises being involved and the total amount paid in grants in respect of these houses amounted to £2,234, an average of approximately £148 and it must not be lost sight of that owners spend a considerable amount of capital to bring their properties up to the standard required under the Acts.

Twelve houses were demolished as a result of action under the Housing Act either by Clearance Orders or Demolition Orders, 12 persons from 6 families being re-housed.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

Number of premises inspected during the year	...	...	...	...	103
Number of visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	162
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	...	...	...	...	7
Number of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit	...	...	...	...	49
Number of Premises rendered fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	43
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	12

SHOPS ACT

There are 46 premises in the district within the purview of the Act and these are regularly visited. Almost the whole of these shops are small semi-domestic businesses where the employees are members of the proprietor’s family and no action has been necessary for infringements of the Shops Act or Public Health Act during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(a) Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughter-houses in the district and both are situated in the village of Caton. One of these premises is used by a butcher who, over the past few years, has developed a wholesale trade and animals are slaughtered almost daily.

Set out below are details of the number of animals slaughtered and an effort has been made to inspect the whole of the carcasses handled, on the premises. This has necessitated the making of 301 visits during the year. It will be seen from the details below that there is a decrease in the number of animals slaughtered and examined during the year, this being due to the fact that our local butchers are using the abattoir at Lancaster to a larger degree than formerly.

Particulars are also given of the meat and organs found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption. The disposal of meat condemned at the slaughter-houses is carried out by an arrangement with the Hide and Bone Merchants who visit the slaughter-houses, other condemned foodstuffs being buried on the Council's refuse tip.

Number of Animals Slaughtered and Examined

	Cattle exclu'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	113	28	2	1082	10
Number inspected	113	28	2	1082	10
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :—					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	1	11	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	20	6	Nil	166	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only :—					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars of Meat Condemned

All Diseases except Tuberculosis:—

Carcases :	Sheep	...	11	}	Total weight : 1,055 lbs.
	Calf	...	1		
Livers :	Heifer	...	19		
	Cow	...	6		
	Sheep	...	166		

Tuberculosis Only—Nil.

(b) Other Foodstuffs

Regular routine visits are paid to other food-preparing premises and shops. As these are mostly small family businesses, the standard of cleanliness is high and foodstuffs are handled with greater care than in many larger premises.

Special requests from owners of food premises during the year lead to the examination of consignments of tinned hams and pre-packed chickens and, as a result, 18 tins of cooked ham, weighing 195 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. and 500 chickens weighing 1,720 lbs. were found to be unfit for food and were voluntarily surrendered.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The bulk of the milk produced in this area is removed to dairies outside the district where it is either pasteurised before re-sale or used in the manufacture of cheese or condensed milk.

Pasteurised milk is retailed in some parts of the district but almost all untreated milk sold locally is obtained from Accredited or T.T. herds. The pasteurised milk is obtained from wholesalers in Lancaster and all dirty bottles are returned to these dairies for cleansing and sterilising.

Five schools in the district obtain milk from local farmers in the vicinity of the schools whose herds are tuberculin tested, and samples of school milk are regularly obtained for analysis by members of the County Medical Officer of Health's staff.

Samples of milk sold by retail are obtained from time to time. These specimens are delivered to the Pathology Departments of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Preston Royal Infirmary, and during the year 28 specimens of raw milk and two samples of pasteurised milk were all reported upon as satisfactory.

In addition, 33 specimens of milk were submitted for special examination for Brucellosis and it was found that of these, 5 were reported upon as positive. Ultimately, two cows were indentified and these were immediately removed from the herd and slaughtered.

SCHOOLS

As pointed out in previous reports, none of the 15 schools in the district are of modern construction and there is a lack of such facilities as hot water for washing purposes and modern sanitation in some schools. Progress is, however, being made, improvements during the year include the modernisation of Quernmore School by the addition of new cloakroom and toilet facilities and a new water treatment plant whilst it is known that plans are in an advanced state for Leck, Tatham Fells and Arkholme Schools, where improvements have been under consideration for some time.

A new school for secondary education is under construction and it is hoped that the school will be opened during 1960.

RODENT CONTROL

One man is employed on this work and his duties combine work under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act with those of foreman over the refuse collection service.

The work includes the inspection of agricultural buildings, business premises, private dwellings and Council Tips and Sewage Disposal Works. Contracts for the treatment of premises, particularly farms and shops are entered into wherever possible but private houses are given free treatment as and when required. It is known that at least two private operators are working in the area and they have contracts with quite a number of farmers to treat their premises.

Sewerage systems are baited and poisoned twice yearly in accordance with the Ministry's policy and refuse tips are kept under very strict observation and treated when necessary.

Set out below are details of the work carried out under the Act :

TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Agri-cultural	Non-Agricultural	
		Dwelling Houses	All Other
No. of properties inspected	173	246	108
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	484	361	126
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—			
Rats : major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	39	10	14
Mice : major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	11	36	12
No. of infested properties treated ...	50	46	26
Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	484	104	88
No. of “Block” control schemes carried out	11	3	6

Sewer Treatment

Total number of manholes baited	186
Number of manholes showing prebait take	33
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days)	36
Number of manholes showing complete poison take	30
Number of manholes showing part poison take	17

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

There are 49 premises affected by the above legislation on the register and 42 visits have been paid to these during the year. No infringements of the requirements of the Acts were found and the co-operation of the managements of the firms concerned is appreciated.

